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1           WHEREAS, New Mexico has a large population of youth, with  
2 twenty-eight percent of its population under the age of twenty-  
3 five; and

4           WHEREAS, New Mexico has a higher-than-average percentage  
5 of households that are considered "food insecure" or "hungry",  
6 and children in those households are more likely to perform  
7 poorly in school and, as a consequence, suffer from diminished  
8 chances of gaining good employment; and

9           WHEREAS, New Mexico has the seventh highest rate of youth  
10 suicide in the nation; and

11           WHEREAS, New Mexico will not advance economically or  
12 socially if its children are not properly cared for, well-  
13 educated and healthy;

14           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families  
16 department, the department of health, the human services  
17 department and the state department of public education be  
18 requested to collaborate on a coordinated plan to address the  
19 problems of youth that occur early in children's lives and to  
20 present that plan to the appropriate interim committee of the  
21 legislature prior to December 1, 2003; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the secretaries of children, youth and families,  
24 health, and human services and to the superintendent of public  
25 instruction.

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